

#### **Week 10 Review**

# Bengals (4-6) 34-35 (7-3) Ravens

In an AFC North showdown, the Ravens narrowly edged out the Bengals in a high-scoring thriller. Joe Burrow and Lamar Jackson each delivered impressive performances, trading 4 touchdowns each in a game full of offensive fireworks. The game came down to the final play after JaMaar Chases third touchdown and the final of his monster 264 yard receiving day. The Ravens defence stayed strong on the 2 points try. It was a bold call by the Bengals, however after conceding touchdowns in the final 4 Ravens drives. Ultimately, Baltimore's clutch defense sealed the game, but it was only after 470 Bengals offensive yards. The Ravens did answer with 389 yards of offence of their own. They scored three touchdowns in the last quarter. The win keeps the Ravens well within touching distance of the top of the AFC North. The loss does hurt the Bengals chances of the playoffs and even catching the Ravens and Steelers in the division.

## Giants (2-8) 17-20 (3-7) Panthers (Germany game)

The Giants and Panthers treated the German fans to a close contest. The Giants showed grit, but Carolina's offense did just enough to secure the win in overtime after a huge turnover from a fumbleby rookie Tyrone Tracy who impressed once again. Dan Jones struggles with 190 yards and 2 interceptions. So did Bryce Young who only threw for 126 yards but he kept the ball safe and had Chuba Hubbard to lean on. The running back had 153 rushing yards and a touchdown and seemed to break through with ease. The Panthers' defensive unit held strong, forced the fumble to set up a game-winning drive in overtime and turning the ball over in Giants territory to set up Eddy Pineiro's walk off field goal and earning Carolina an important morale-boosting victory. The Giants fall to 2-8 where as the Panthers and Bryce Young continue to show fight and getting a few results.

## Patriots (3-7) 19-3 (4-5) Bears

In the battle of the first overall pick Caleb Williams and the third Drake Maye it was Maye and the Patriots that got the win. The Patriots' defense dominated in a low-scoring affair, holding the Bears to just three points. New England controlled the pace, forcing turnovers and disrupting Chicago's offensive rhythm throughout. The defence pressured the poor offensive line of the Bears and managed 9 sacks. Anfernee Jennings and Deatrich Wise Jr both landing two each and a whole host of others getting one. Caleb Williams struggled all game with the pressure and was guilty at times of holding onto the ball a bit too long, however the offensive line was like a turnstile. While the Patriots' offense wasn't flashy, it was enough to secure a comfortable win. Drake Maye threw for 184 yards and a touchdown to his fellow rookie Ja'Lynn Polk on his only grab to help improve their record to 3-7. Maye has shown enough to know the Patriots have a good quarterback of the future. The Loss for the Bears really damages their playoff hopes as they fall to 4-5.

# Bills (8-2) 30-20 (4-6) Colts

The Bills continued their strong season with a solid victory over the Colts. The Bills continue to impress on both sides of the ball and look really contenders once again. This result comes from Josh Allen having a 2 interceptions game. However both Allen and James Cook were able to score on rushing plays. They racked up 130 rushing yards between them. Buffalo's defense also stepped up, picking off Flacco 3 times and turning the ball over another time. Indianapolis showed resilience but couldn't keep up with Buffalo's consistent scoring and fell short of an upset. Flacco's poor performance in this one has led to calls for Anthony Richardson to be recalled to try and save their playoff hopes as they fall to 4-6. The Bills continue to impress and they now look set for a playoff run and the division title after pulling away to a 5 game lead in the AFC East.

#### Broncos (5-5) 14-16 (9-0) Chiefs

The Chiefs remained undefeated after a gritty defensive battle against the Broncos. Bo Nix threw for two touchdowns in the second quarter which would give the Broncos the lead until late in the fourth. With time running out in the fourth Nix drove the Broncos into field goal range where the Chiefs defence was able to get the block to keep them undefeated. Denver's defense made life difficult for Kansas City, keeping them in check for most of the game. However, Patrick Mahomes orchestrated another game-winning drive in the closing minutes, once again proving his clutch ability to keep the Chiefs' perfect record intact. He only needed the one passing touchdowns to Travis Kelce in the third and the trusty boot of Harrison Butker to get the Chiefs over the line. The Chiefs are almost certain of a playoff run once again. The Broncos will be hugely disappointed not to upset the superbowl champs, but they are still hanging on to the last playoff spot at 5-5.

## Falcons (6-4) 17-20 (3-7) Saints

The Saints pulled off an upset against the Falcons, thanks to Marquez Valdes-Scantlings 109 yard and two touchdowns game and timely defensive stops. Derek Carr managed to break down the Falcons defence often with 269 passing yards. The Saints receivers stepped up without Olave and Shaheed allowing Carr to move the chains. Atlanta fought back late in the game, Bijan Robinson once again showing why he had so much noise coming out of college. He smooth running landed 116 yards and both of the Falcons touchdowns but New Orleans managed to hold on for the win. This victory gives the Saints momentum as they try

to build a stronger second half of the season after losing 7 straight. They will hope to rack up a few more wins after a change in head coach this week. The Falcons will rue missed chances as Younghoe Koo missed uncharacteristic field goals. They head to 6-4 and do still lead the division bye two games.

## 49ers (5-4) 23-20 (4-6) Bucs

San Francisco eked out a close win against the Buccaneers in a hard-fought contest. The 49ers welcomed back Christian McCaffrey but he only managed 39 rushing yards on his return. He did help in the passing game as Brock Purdy threw for 353 yards and 2 touchdowns. One went to George Kittle who snagged a great catch in the corner, the other went to impressive rookie Ricky Pearsall who scored his first NFL touchdown just a few months after being shot. Pearsall looked impressive on his snaps and could see more targets in the near future. Tampa Bay struggled with consistency on offense. Baker Mayfield was only able to throw for 116 yards in a uncharacteristic display for him. Bucky Irving once again impressed with his rushing. The Bucs head into their bye week at 4-6 and will hope to bring back Mike Evans into the fold after the bye. A late drive by the 49ers set up the gamewinning walk-off field goal after Moody had previously missed 3 field goals. This was a much-needed win for San Fran who go to 5-4 and keep in the hunt for the playoffs and division title.

# **Steelers (7-2) 28-27 (7-3) Commanders**

In one of the week's most thrilling finishes, the Steelers narrowly defeated the Commanders in a back-and-forth game thanks to a late touchdown from new signing Mike Williams. Pittsburgh's defense made a crucial stop on Washington's final drive to seal the win, as the Steelers continue their strong season. Russell Wilson threw for 3 touchdowns and was able to rely on George Picking all game as he had 91 receiving yards on the day. Cam Heyward landed 2 sacks and looked to pressure Jayden Daniels as much as possible. The Commanders put up a good fight, Austin Ekeler scored two rushing touchdowns and Jeremy McNicholes added one rushing touchdown. Dante Fowler landed two sacks to Wilson but couldn't overcome Pittsburgh's efficient offense. The Steelers managed to keep away from the chasing pack in the AFC North as they moved to 7-2. The Commanders lose first spot in the NFC East but still look to be heading to the playoffs.

#### Vikings (7-2) 12-7 (2-8) Jaguars

In a low-scoring battle, the Vikings' defense proved to be the difference-maker against the Jaguars. Mac Jones was picked off twice one to end the game and fumbled the ball in a turnover in his season debut replacing injured Trevor Lawrence. Jones could not get much going and didn't have much help from his running backs Travis Etienne and Tank Bigsby who both continue to struggle as of late. Minnesota managed just enough on offense to outlast Jacksonville, thanks to the boot of John Parker Romo who was only signed earlier in the week. He scored all of the Vikings points in this one. T.J Hockenson was arguably the best player in this one with 72 receiving yards and looked back to his old self after recovering from injury and a long layoff. The Vikings' defense held strong in the final minutes, preserving the win and keeping them among the NFC's top teams. They still are chasing the Lions in the NFC North but looks set to head to the playoffs.

The Chargers came away with a comfortable win over the Titans, who continue to struggle this season. Los Angeles showcased their offensive firepower, with Justin Herbert making key throws to pull ahead. Herbert was accurate throwing 14/18 passes for 164 yards, however Herbert also showed some rushing ability with 32 yards and a touchdown. Herbert was forced to use his legs at times to keep the offence moving in the right direction. Tuli Tuipulotu and Bud Dupree managed two sacks each for the Chargers on defence as they pressured Will Levis all game. Tennessee's offense couldn't keep pace, Levis threw two touchdowns both to Calvin Ridley but this was the only positive on offence and the Titans' defense struggled to contain the Chargers' offence as they had no sacks and only four tackles for loss all game. The Chargers keep their playoff hopes well and truly alive and sit in their at the 6th seed. The Titans continue to look unimpressive as they fall to 2-7.

## **Eagles (7-2) 34-6 (3-6) Cowboys**

In a statement win, the Eagles dominated the Cowboys in every phase of the game. The Philadelphia defence stifled Dallas all day long, only allowing 45 passing yards and a total of 146 offensive yards. The Eagles cornerbacks Quinyon Mitchell and Darius Slay were excellent both having two pass break-ups and locked down all wide receivers on the Cowboys. While the Eagles offence scored with ease. Jalen Hurts led an efficient attack that kept Dallas off-balance throughout. He had two passing and two rushing touchdowns. He found AJ Brown with ease as he got 109 receiving yards. There were not many positives for the Cowboys however Micah Parsons coming back and landing 2 sacks as well as DeMarvion Overshown who also landed 2 sacks and 19 total tackles were the bright spots for the side. This convincing win further established the Eagles as a top NFC contender. They put themselves top of the NFC East and are another side looking set for a playoff run. The Cowboys fall to 3-6 and with Dak Prescott's season over it also seems the Cowboys season is as well.

#### Jets (3-7) 6-31 (6-4) Cardinals

The Cardinals cruised past the Jets with a dominant performance on both sides of the ball. Arizona's defence shut down the Jets' offence, with Budda Baker seemingly flying around for the Cardinals. He led the team in tackles with 15 and also sacked Aaron Rodgers. While the Cardinals' offence found the end zone with ease, Kyler Murray looked excellent, he found James Conner, Trey McBride and Marvin Harrison Jr with ease all game, he also rushed two touchdowns. The Run game also keeps rolling for the Cardinals with Connor, Murray, Trey Benson and Emari Demercado all contributing steady yards. New York's struggles continued, after impressing the week earlier, they went back to poor play and not challenging teams consistently. Garrett Wilson only had 41 yards and Devante Adams 31 yards. The Jets fall to 3-7 and it seems any hopes of making the playoffs have gone. Arizona took full control from the start and never looked back, this helped them keep control of the NFC West and maintain the 4th seed.

# Lions (8-1) 26-23 (6-4) Texans

The Lions extended their impressive season with a narrow victory over the Texans despite 5 interceptions from Jared Goff. Detroit's offence moved the ball in the second half as they had 19 unanswered points. The Lions defence came up big in crucial moments, they also had two picks on the game and Alim McNeill seemed to be in the face of Stroud nearly every play. Houston put up a strong fight. The defence did get 5 interceptions as mentioned above, 2 came from rookie Kamari Lassiter who looks like a really solid pick by the Texans, but the

Lions ultimately prevailed with a game-winning field goal, maintaining their NFC North lead and keeping them as the top seed in the NFC. The Texans will rue the second half and poor offensive play, however they still have a 2 game lead in the AFC South. They need to pick up a couple of wins in the next few weeks to keep their spot.

# **Dolphins (3-6) 23-15 (4-5) Rams**

Miami's defence led the way in a solid win over the Rams holding the Rams offence to just 5 field goals. The standout on the Dolphins defence was 38 year old Calaius Campbell who once again continues to look as if he could play in the league another 5 years. He landed one of the teams 4 sacks, 2 pass deflections, one each of a tackle for loss and quarterback hit. The Dolphins' offence managed the game efficiently, taking advantage of scoring opportunities while limiting mistakes. Tua Tagovailoa was good throwing 20/28 for 207 yards, he helped move the ball well despite poor running back play. The Rams struggled to sustain drives, and Miami capitalised on key turnovers, securing a win that improves their record to 3-6. The Rams suffer a huge blow to their playoff hopes as they fall to 4-5.

## Teams on a Bye

Browns, Packers, Raiders, Seahawk

## **Game of the Week**

It was the Bengals Vs Ravens, the game was end to end, and the Ravens managed to sneak a win with the final play being a two point conversion try in which the Ravens kept out to win by one.

# Play of the Week

This might not get a lot of love, but the blocked field goal by the Chiefs on the final play against the Broncos was unbelievable. They keep the Chiefs undefeated. It wins another really tight contest. All three groups have now contributed massively to a win. IT shows the Chiefs can win even when they aren't at their best. The Chiefs are also almost guaranteed a spot in the post season already!

## **Playoff Picture**

|          | <u>AFC</u>   | <u>NFC</u>     |
|----------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 Seed - | Chiefs 9-0   | Lions 8-1      |
| 2 Seed - | Bills 8-2    | Eagles 7-2     |
| 3 Seed - | Steelers 7-2 | Falcons 6-4    |
| 4 Seed - | Texans 6-4   | Cardinals 6-4  |
| 5 Seed - | Ravens 7-3   | Vikings 7-2    |
| 6 Seed - | Chargers 6-3 | Commanders 7-3 |
| 7 Seed - | Broncos 5-5  | Packers 6-3    |

## In The Hunt

AFC - Colts 4-6, Bengals 4-6 - these two are hanging on with the Texans and Broncos loses NFC - 49ers 5-4, Bears 4-5, Seahawks 4-5, Rams 4-5, Bucs 4-5.

Stay tuned as video releases will soon be added to the blog, they will be added as a whole video on YouTube as well as shorts on socials.